The cercopid genus *Pseudomachaerota* Melichar (Hemiptera: Cercopidae)

by

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(Submitted through G. van Son, Transvaal Museum, Pretoria)

The genus *Pseudomachaerota* Melichar, 1915 is heretofore known from its original description and from a unique female specimen from Madagascar. Its systematic status has long been problematical. An examination of Melichar's type disproves his assumption that it stood very close ("steht sehr nahe") to *Apomachaerota* E. Schmidt, 1907, a Malaysian genus of the family Machaerotidae, subfamily Enderleiniinae. From our limited knowledge of the African fauna, *Pseudomachaerota* seems to represent a rather isolated group of the family Cercopidae, subfamily Aphrophorinae. Its true affinities to other African Aphrophorine genera have to be left undecided until the discovery of the male.

In the following lines, the genus is re-defined, its type species redescribed, and a second species from South Africa added. For the privilege of studying the material involved, the writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Dr J. Stehlik of the Moravian Museum, Brno and Dr G. van Son of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria. Part of the drawings were kindly prepared by Mrs D. Rainwater.

Genus *PSEUDOMACHAEROTA* Melichar, 1915

Pseudomachaerota Melichar, 1915, *Verh. zool. — bot. Ges. Wien* **65**: 1. Typus generis: *Ps. olivacea* Mel.

Body of small to medium size, rather robust and strongly humpbacked, about seven-tenths as deep in profile as broad. Head (figs. 1 and 4) much narrower than pronotum. Anteclypeus weakly keeled; postclypeus evenly convex, not keeled or flattened. Pleurostome nearly as broad as lorum, separated from the latter by a long, rather deep suture; upper portion of lorum flattened, acuminate or narrowly rounded; maximum length of gena proper about two-thirds of minimum breadth of pleurostome; maxillary plate exposed at side of lorum. Eye much longer than broad, its inner margin largely straight, weakly or distinctly angulate at lower end; outer margin apart from hind margin of head. Tylus about two-fifths as long as broad, broader

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than eye, much broader than side piece of vertex, anteriorly weakly separated from postclypeus; supra-antennal triangle poorly defined ,and together with uppermost portion of postclypeus, visible in vertical view of crown. Ocelli much closer to each other than to eye, slightly closer to tylus than to occipital margin. Pronotum nearly twice as broad as long, shallowly reticulate-rugose; anterolateral margin carinate for its full length, longer than breadth of eye. Scutellum proper about one-fifth as deep in profile as long, with a large, rather shallow depression at disc, lacking submedian carina; lateral area gently descending; scutellar apex flattened, poorly defined from scutellum proper, laterally carinated. Tegmen (figs. 3 and 6) short, broad, densely punctate throughout, semitransparent or nearly opaque; veins not prominent, not granulated, not distinctly darker than ground colour; *R* forked beyond midpoint gently curved apically, almost equidistant to costal margin and claval furrow near bottom of basicostal triangle; *M* zigzagged near apex; *Cu* apart from claval furrow; preapical cells concave; apical cells also concave, all longer than broad, the 1st often with a supernumerary preapical crossvein; subcostal triangle quite broad and shallow; crossveins *ir, rm* and *mcu* not forming a continuous, nearly straight line; clavus acute at apex, with an apically branched vein and in addition, often with trace of a second longitudinal vein; corial appendix only indicated by linear, decurved, semimembranous fringe along apical margin; claval appendix normal. Wing (fig. 7) with 1st longitudinal vein branched for some distance near middle and then reunited together near apex, forming a narrow elongate supernumerary cell; longitudinal veins 3 and 5 apically longly branched. Hind tibia with only one lateral spine. Anal segment of female well exposed; anal style longer than profile depth; ovipositor sheath oblique. Male unknown.

RANGE: Malagasy and S. African subregions, submontane; two species.

Key to Species of *PSEUDOMACHAEROTA*

Pronotum not depressed along median line; maxillary plate distinctly more elevated than pleurostome; 1ste apical cell of tegmen about half as large as 2nd; female 4.8 mm long, Madagascar . . . . . **olivacea**

Pronotum distinctly depressed along middle one-third of median line; maxillary plate not elevated; 1st apical cell of tegmen practically as large as 2nd; female 7 mm long, S. Africa . . . . . **grandis**

EXPLANATIONS OF FIGURES

Figs. 1-3 *Pseudomachaerota olivacea* Melichar, ♀ - holotype; figs. 4-7, *Ps. grandis* spec. nov., ♀ - holotype. Figs. 1 and 4, head, pronotum and scutellum, viewed vertically to the plane of pronotum; figs. 2 and 5, head and part of pronotum, viewed vertically to the plane of crown; figs. 3 and 6, tegmen; fig. 7, wing.

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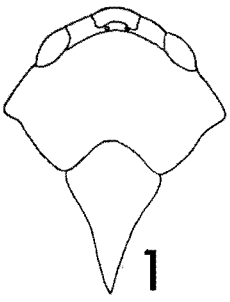

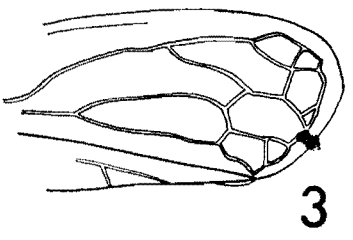

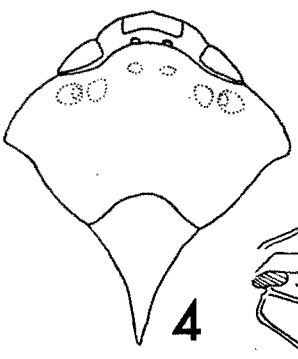

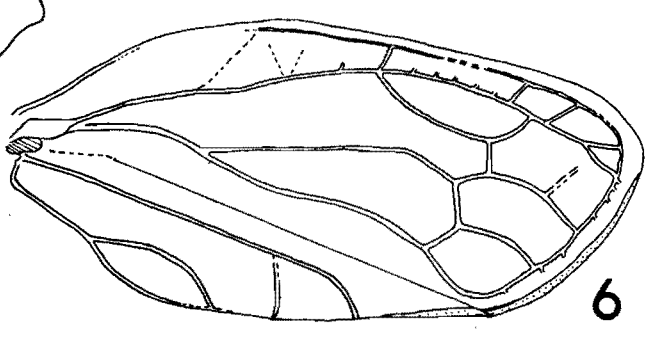

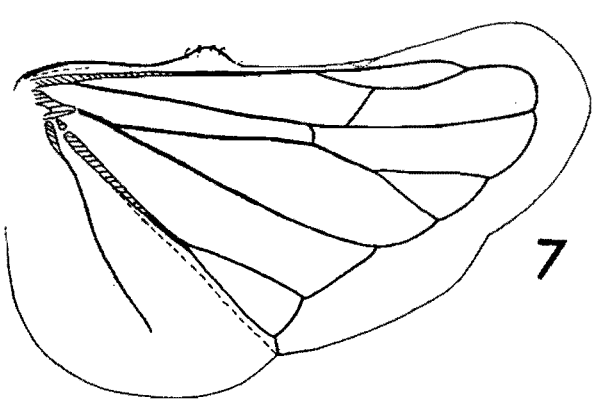

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Pseudomachaerota olivacea Melichar, text figs. 1-3

1915, *Verh. zool. — bot. Ges. Wien* **65**: 2; 2 figs., unnumbered

FEMALE: Dirty greenish-yellow (olive-green in life?); crown and ante-callus area of pronotum ochraceous; scutellum yellow, anteriorly ochraceous; venter and legs pale ochraceous; tibial and tarsal spines of hind leg apically black.

Postclypeus micropunctate; lateral rugae indistinct; gena and lorum densely, finely punctate; maxillary plate broadly subtriangular, strongly elevated. Crown weakly, irregularly rugose; side piece of vertex deeply depressed at outer side of ocellus; tylus practically flattened, separated from postclypeus by a faint, medially interrupted transverse carina; tentorial pit roundish, shallow; ocellar area shining, hardly longer than broad, laterally gently descending; occipital margin feebly reflexed. Inner margin of eye weakly curved but strongly angulated at lower end; outer margin evenly curved. Rostrum extending to hind margin of mid coxa. Pronotum lacking distinct roundish punctures; reticulation meshes at discal area roundish, that at lateral area much shorter than broad; ante-callus area irregularly rugose; calli shallow, transverse, close to anterior pronotal margin; median line not depressed; anterolateral margin slightly longer than breadth of eye; posterior margin deeply, roundly sinuate. Scutellum microalutaceous, lacking distinct punctures and rugae; discal excavation oboval, slightly longer than broad, not rimmed at sides. Tegmen semitransparent, venation as in figure 3. Relative lengths and breadths of head, pronotum and scutellum 9:18:21 and 23:32:14 respectively. Hind tibia with about seven to eight apical spines; lateral spine situated slightly apicad to tibial midpoint, distinctly larger than any apical spine. Body 4.8 mm long; tegmen 4 mm.

Redescribed from the holotype (in Moravian Mus.), collected at Mt. d'Ambre, Madagascar. The type specimen is in fairly good condition, although the tegmina and wings are somewhat greasy and appear to be nearly transparent. Melichar's (l.c) figure of the tegmen is rather crude and the radius was wrongly drawn as if originating from a common stem with media and cubitus. A new figure is here presented.

Pseudomachaerota grandis spec. nov., plate 9, fig. 1; text figs. 4-7

FEMALE: Dirty yellowish; crown, metanotum and abdominal tergites brownish; basal third of tegmen stained with pale brownish; extreme apex of rostrum and tibial and tarsal spines apically black.

Head and anterior half of pronotum with short sparse erect brown hairs; hairs on other parts of body longer, denser, finer and whitish. Postclypeus micropunctate, with about seven indistinct lateral rugae; gena and lorum similarly micropunctate as postclypeus; maxillary plate very narrow, linear and not more elevated than pleurostome. Tylus depressed, separated from postclypeus by a weak but complete arcuate transverse carina. Inner margin

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PLATE 9

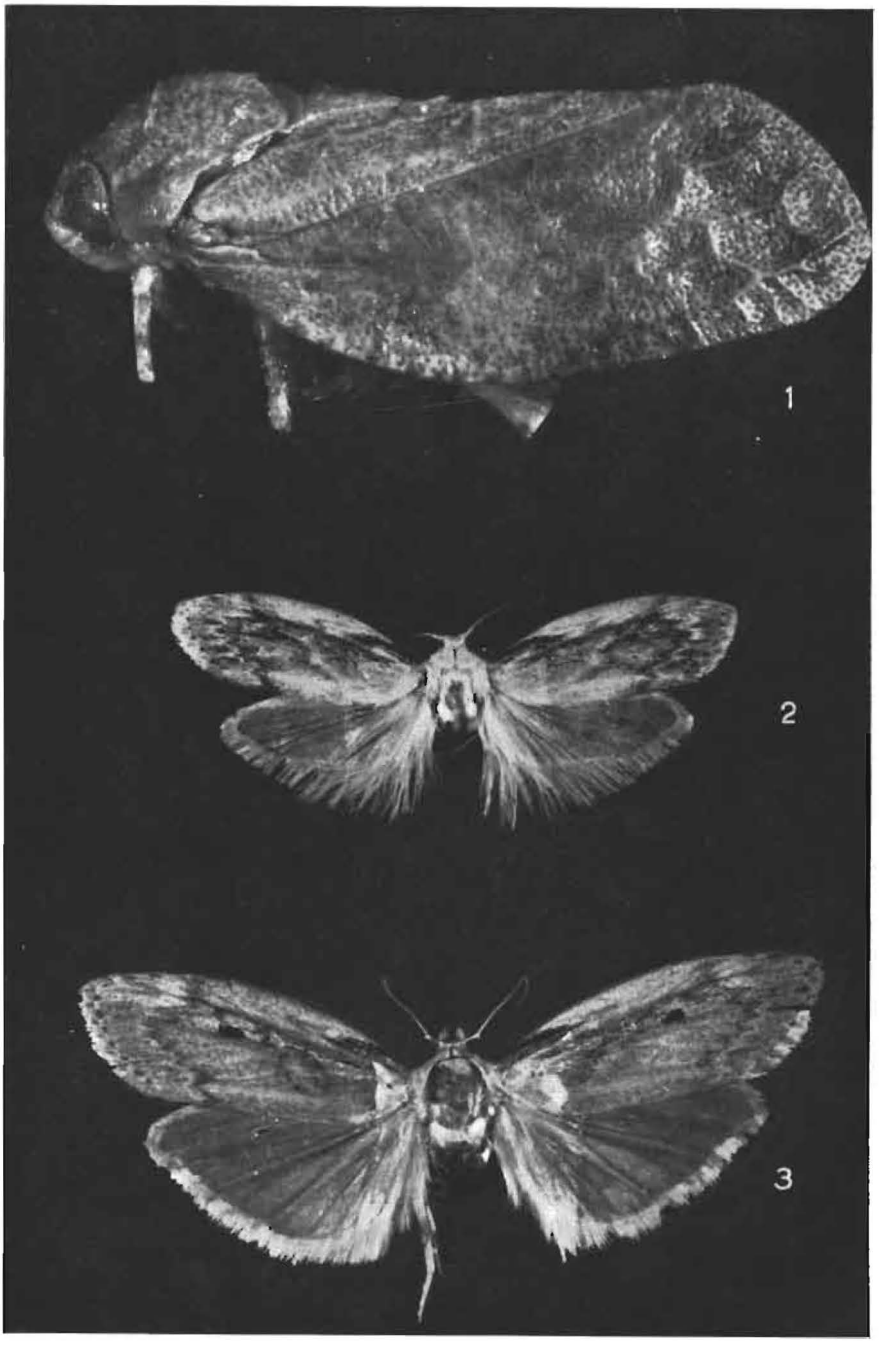

Fig. 1. *Pseudomachaerota grandis* spec. nov., ♀ - holotype.
Fig. 2. *Paralipsa exacta* spec. nov., ♂ - type.
Fig. 3. *Idem*, ♀ - allotype.

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of eye distinctly curved but weakly angulate at lower end; outer margin feebly sinuate near middle. Rostrum extending to midpoint between mid and hind coxae. Pronotum broadly depressed along middle third of median line; anterolateral margin nearly twice as long as breadth of eye; posterior margin more angularly sinuate than in *olivacea*. Scutellum microalutaceous, with few fine rugae. Tegmen (fig. 6) nearly opaque. Relative lengths and breadths of head, pronotum and scutellum 12:26:29 and 31:49:20 respectively. Other characters similar to those in *olivacea*. Body 7 mm long; tegmen 5.6 mm.

TRANSVAAL: Tweefontein Farm (Pretoria Distr.), January 1907, A. J. T. Janse, holotype, in coll. Transvaal Museum.

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